



U.S. CAPITOL

Visitor Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Capitol Visitor Center Welcomes Five-Millionth Visitor

WASHINGTON, DC – Beth Plemmons, CEO for Visitor Services at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, announced that this afternoon, the Capitol Visitor Center welcomed its five-millionth visitor since it opened on December 2, 2008.

“We are pleased that in just over two years, we have been able to welcome five million visitors to the Capitol in an environment that is safe, comfortable, educational, and enjoyable,” said Plemmons. “Visitors can make advance reservations for tours through their Members’ offices, and have numerous amenities available to them while they’re here.”

“The Capitol Visitor Center is a significant addition to the Capitol, and we’ve created a wonderful first impression for visitors about their Capitol, the Congress, the Legislative Branch, and public service,” said Architect of the Capitol Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP. “We’ve received very positive feedback from Members of Congress and the public about the quality and depth of the exhibits, and the variety of learning opportunities available at the Visitor Center.”

This spring, new public programs are being offered to Capitol visitors. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. families with children of all ages have an opportunity to explore the Capitol Visitor Center’s Exhibition Hall in greater depth and discover how the Capitol expanded over time and what goes into making legislative decisions.

Visitors may also take advantage of a new tour entitled “Capitol and the Congress During the Civil War,” presented in honor of the Civil War’s sesquicentennial anniversary. The tour is offered Monday through Friday at 3:30 p.m. and does not require reservations. With stops at the Old Supreme Court Chamber and the Old Senate Chamber, this special 45-minute tour explores how the Capitol was used during the Civil War, critical debates that took place during the Civil War, and key judicial decisions made during this time period.

Another special tour takes visitors to the first floor of the Senate wing of the Capitol to view and learn about the ornate paintings on the walls and ceilings designed by Constantino Brumidi between 1857 and 1859. Offered Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m., this 30-minute tour does not require reservations.

Also new this spring is an online exhibition at www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions where visitors may preview from home the many historic documents, images, and artifacts on display in the Visitor Center’s fascinating Exhibition Hall.

For more information about the Capitol Visitor Center, go to www.visitthecapitol.gov or for the latest developments, follow the Capitol Visitor Center on Twitter @visitthecapitol.

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